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International Charter on 'Space and Major Disasters'

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India, by virtue of being a member of the **International Charter 'Space and Major Disasters'** has received a **satellite data** related to the **Assam floods** from other member nations including France, Russia and China.

- Whenever there is a **natural** or **man-made disaster**, the **National Remote Sensing Center** (NRSC) and member space agencies of other countries which are a part of the International Charter Space and Major Disasters can **activate** the platform.
- National Remote Sensing Center represents the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** as a member of the charter which has been set up under the **UN-SPIDER** (United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response).

The International Charter 'Space and Major Disasters'



World's **first coordinated multi-satellite** operational setup for emergency response
Introduced at Space Assembly (UNISPACE III) in 1999 and is Operational since Nov 1,
2000.

Purpose

It is an **International Agreement** among **Space Agencies** to support with space-based data and information for relief efforts in the emergencies caused by major disasters, on humanitarian ground at **no cost**.

Need

- No single space agency can provide imaging capability to meet the **spatial** and **temporal** requirements of different types of disasters.
Different space sensors (Thermal, Microwave, Optical) are required for different disasters (Fire, Floods, EQ).
- Hence the need for a **global system** for **disaster management**, supported by **multi-satellite** and **multi-imaging** capabilities.

Members

- Currently 16 global space agencies Including **India's ISRO** are it's members.
- The members cooperate on a **voluntary basis**.
- UN-SPIDER and UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research is a dedicated training arm of the United Nations system) are not formal members of the mechanism, but are authorized to request the activation of the mechanism on behalf of UN agencies, in countries affected by disasters.

Disasters Types Supported

Charter addresses both:

- **Natural disasters** like floods, earthquakes, forest fires, landslides, tsunamis, ocean storms, volcanic eruptions.
- **Man made disasters** like oil spills and industrial accidents.

Mechanism

- **Direct activation:** Authorized Users (civil protection agencies, governmental relief organizations, or other authorities with a mandate related to disaster management) are able to request the activation of the Charter to support emergencies in their own country.
- **Activation via an Authorized User on behalf of a user from another country without AU:** Authorized Users can access the charter to request support for a disaster in another country with which they cooperate for relief purposes.
- **Activation via the UN for UN users:** The Charter has an agreement with UN OOSA (Vienna) and UNITAR/UNOSAT (Geneva) to provide support to UN agencies, may submit requests on behalf of users from the United Nations.
- **Activation for Asia Pacific users via Sentinel Asia:** Sentinel Asia is a regional collaboration for satellite based emergency response in Asia Pacific.

Source: TH